



No. 10

\$2.00

(\$2.40 Canada)

XENOZOIC TALES

Don Jensen



LOVE
© '89

WELCOME TO THE XENOZOIC!

Welcome to a world gone mad. In the Xenozoic, dinosaurs roam with humans and Cadillacs race woolly mammoths. In the Xenozoic, all of Earth's ages have merged, and two people want to find out why. They are Jack Tenrec—Cadillac Jack—part mechanic, part nature shaman; and Hannah Dundee, scientist, diplomat, and explorer. Together, they seek the secret of the Xenozoic. Come with them. What they find is inside...

Writer & Artist
MARK SCHULTZ

Second story art
STEVE STILES

Lettering & cover color
DENISE PROWELL

Production
JAN MANWEILER

Circulation
JEAN BUNKELMANN

Editor
DAVE SCHREINER

Publisher
DENIS KITCHEN



Xenozoic Tales No. 10, April 1990. Published by Kitchen Sink Press, Inc., No. 2 Swamp Rd., Princeton WI 54968. Entire contents copyright © 1990 by Mark Schultz. All rights reserved. Any resemblance to any person living or dead is unintentional. Price: \$2.00 U.S., \$2.40 Canada. **Letters:** We welcome letters of comment. They can be mailed to the address above. **Retailers:** Contact us for distribution information. **Collectors and readers:** Drop a line for our free catalog listing all our fine books, comics, and merchandise, including **Cadillacs & Dinosaurs**, Mark Schultz's first collection; two **Xenozoic Tales** t-shirts; and all the **XT** back issues. Get everything! Printed in U.S.A.

LORDS of the EARTH

12th day of the month of the Duarog,
53rd year of the Rediscovery.

45th entry in the continuing report
from Hannah Dundee, Ambassador
to the City in the Sea, to His
Excellency Chorthis Rouge,
Bureau of Foreign Affairs.

I write this from the deck of a
ship at sea, the victim of a turn
of events I could not foretell.

Philosophical
and governmental changes
within the City have rendered
its environs
currently unsafe
for Wassoon
nationals. What
little progress
I had made
concerning my
mission has been
negated.

With me is my fellow fugitive, the mechanic Jack
Tenece, an embittered political exile.

I will describe the
events leading
up to the present
situation in this,
which may be the
final entry in my
report to the
bureau...

As previously reported, I had chosen to ally myself with Tenrec, a man with no political powers as such, but whose knowledge and shamanistic role commanded the governing council's attention.

Four days ago, Tenrec failed to return from a tour of the interior.



But not in the best of health. One does not sit down to dinner with a lord of the earth with impunity.

Kirgo, Tenrec's chief mechanic, and I suspected foul play and set out after him.

We found him, amazingly enough, holding court with a shivat...



HELLO, HANNAH. DID YOU MISS ME?



YEAH, BOTH THE HUDSON AND MY GUN.

SABOTAGE?

DAHLGREN WASN'T KIDDIN'... **SOMEONE** IS OUT FOR MY HIDE.



Y'KNOW, JACK, IT WAS DAHLGREN AND CAIRO WHO NEARLY SENT US TO OUR DEATHS AT LAKE ORENDA...

PURE COINCIDENCE. I'D TRUST MY **LIFE** WITH THOSE TWO...

WHICH IS WHAT I'M GONNA HAVE TO DO, ANYWAY.





WHAT **ARE** YOU GOING TO DO?

RIGHT NOW **WE'RE** GONNA FIND A PLACE TO HOLE UP. LOOK AT THE SKY... THERE'S A BAD BLOW COMIN' IN FROM THE SEA.

SHOULD BE AN OVERHANG UP HERE...

The storm struck with unusual fury, driving all before it. While Tenrec gave in to exhaustion and slept, Kirgo and I spoke.

TELL ME ABOUT JACK'S PLACE IN THE TRIBE...

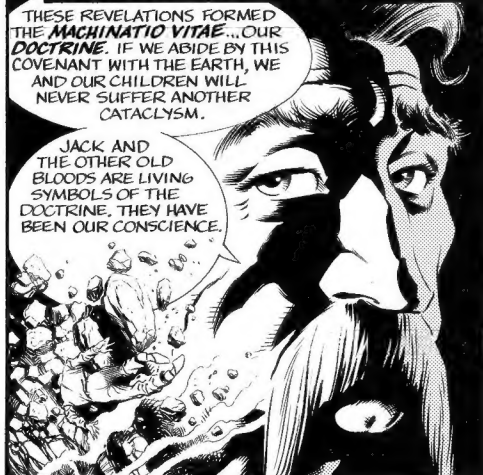
YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND OUR HISTORY. JACK'S AN **OLD BLOOD MECHANIC**... A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THOSE MECHANICS WHOSE SKILLS KEPT THE TRIBE ALIVE DURING THE CENTURIES OF ENTOMBMENT IN THE GREAT SHELTER.



THE **OLD BLOODS** WERE THE FIRST TO UNDERSTAND THE **BALANCE**... THE SUBTLE WORKINGS OF NATURE, OF WHICH MAN MUST REMAIN A PART... EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF HIS IMMEDIATE WELFARE.

THESE REVELATIONS FORMED THE **MACHINATIO VITAE**... OUR **DOCTRINE**. IF WE ABIDE BY THIS COVENANT WITH THE EARTH, WE AND OUR CHILDREN WILL NEVER SUFFER ANOTHER CATAclysm.

JACK AND THE OTHER **OLD BLOODS** ARE LIVING SYMBOLS OF THE **DOCTRINE**. THEY HAVE BEEN OUR CONSCIENCE.

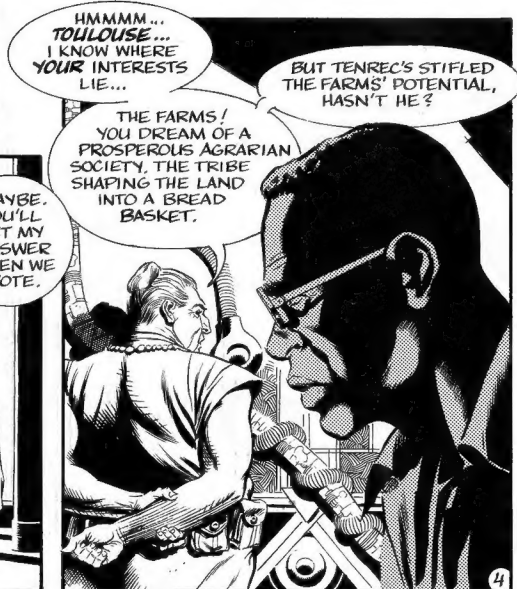
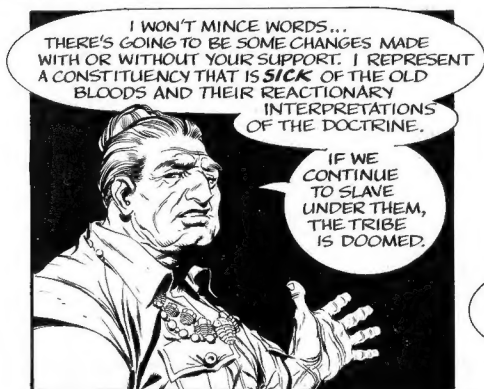


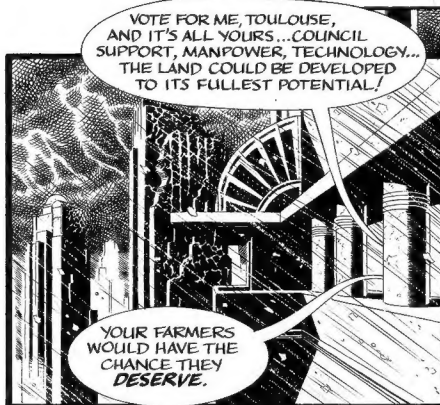
BUT TIME PASSES... AND MEN FORGET. MANY IMPORTANT PEOPLE NOW FEEL **EXPANSION** IS NECESSARY FOR THE GOOD OF THE TRIBE. THEY RESENT JACK'S INFLUENCE AND... THEIR POWER IS GROWING.

Isn't it strange how the histories of this tribe and of we Wassoon parallel each other?



Meanwhile, unknown to us, Jack's enemies were consolidating their power...





The spahis accompanied us to the garage... which we found looking like an armed camp. Cairo had done some housecleaning...



JACK! YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES... WE THOUGHT WE'D LOST YOU THIS TIME!

LET ME GUESS... EQUIPMENT PROBLEMS?



YOU KNOW SOMETHING?

ONLY THAT THESE SCUM WORKED WITH WILHELMINA SCHARNHORST BEFORE YOU PUT 'EM TO WORK HERE. FIGURED THEY MIGHT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DISAPPEARANCE...

WAIT 'TIL YOU HEAR THE WHOLE STORY...

YOU KNOW THE NEW AQUEDUCT WAS NEARING COMPLETION. WELL, I DID A LITTLE INVESTIGATING AND FOUND THAT ITS ONLY REASON FOR EXISTING WAS TO REROUTE THE CITY'S WATER SUPPLY INTO SCHARNHORST'S OWN PRIVATE RESERVOIR!

SO, IT'S MY OLD FRIEND SCHARNHORST, EH?

A NEAT LITTLE BIT OF EXTORTION ...



BUT I ALSO FOUND OUT THAT SHE'S GOT AN ARMY OF MOLES BEHIND HER! THEY'RE ARMED WITH ALL SORTS OF WEAPONRY FROM THE VAULTS.

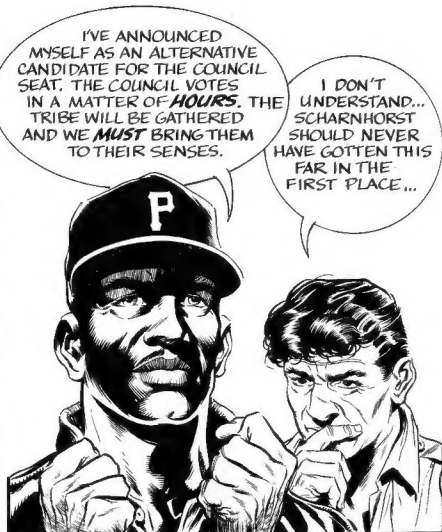
WELL, I BLEW THE AQUEDUCT TO SMITHEREENS.

SHE'S A FANATIC... SHE WANTS A REVOLUTION... A JIHAD... SHE'S ABANDONED THE DOCTRINE AND WANTS A RETURN TO THE ANCIENTS' WAY.

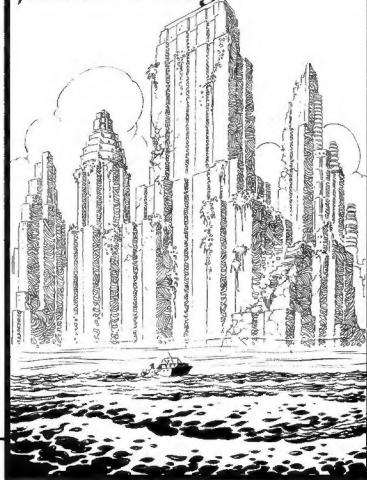
AND SHE'S GOT ENOUGH POWER TO MAKE A BID FOR THE OPEN COUNCIL SEAT. NOCK IS ALREADY IN CAHOOTS WITH HER.

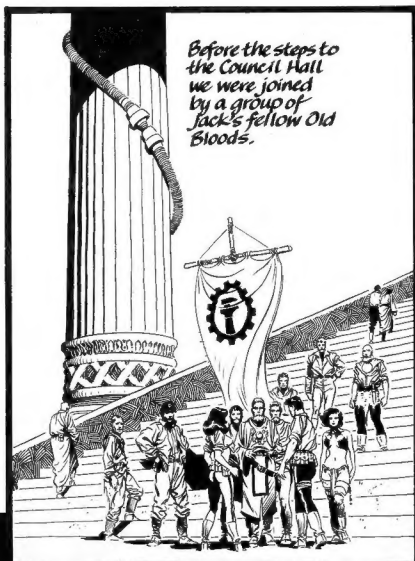


QUA HOON...



So the stage was set.
Against my better judgment, I accom-
panied them to the city.





Across the plaza Scharnhorst sprawled like a fat spider.



Even with little preparation, Cairo spoke well. Playing for the hearts and minds of the tribe, he drew on the fires of the cataclysm how the Old Bloods had kept a peace with the world that allowed the tribe to flourish.



But the crowd was restless. Scharnhorst had been allowed too much time to sow seeds of discontent...



And she had an ace up her sleeve.

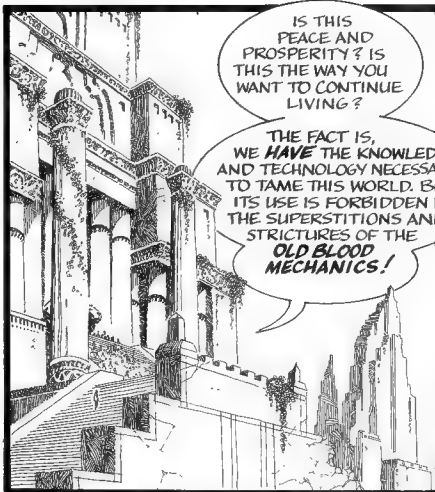
IF, AS MUSTAPHA CAIRO CONTENDS, WE ARE AT PEACE WITH OUR WORLD, IF THE TRIBE IS FLOURISHING...

THEN HOW DO WE EXPLAIN A STORM THAT IN TWO DAYS HAS SEVERELY DAMAGED OUR CITY, COMPLETELY DEVASTATED OUR FARMS AND SLAIN COUNTLESS TRIBESMEN?



IS THIS PEACE AND PROSPERITY? IS THIS THE WAY YOU WANT TO CONTINUE LIVING?

THE FACT IS, WE HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY NECESSARY TO TAME THIS WORLD. BUT ITS USE IS FORBIDDEN BY THE SUPERSTITIONS AND STRICTURES OF THE OLD BLOOD MECHANICS!



AS THINGS STAND NOW, IT WILL TAKE MANY HUNGRY YEARS FOR OUR FARMS TO RECOVER.

WE CANNOT CONTINUE AT THE MERCY OF A DANGEROUS WORLD... THE TYRANNY OF THE OLD BLOODS MUST END!



While Scharnhorst worked the crowd, I watched Tenrec seethe. The proper words from the most respected mechanic could have turned events...

Unfortunately, Tenrec had reached his boiling point.



He did NOT deliver the proper words.

YOU FOOLS! SHE IS AN
ASSASSIN OF MEN AND OF OUR FUTURE!
ACCEPT HER AT THE PERIL OF
CONDEMNING YOUR CHILDREN!

IF THE
STORM WREAKED
HAVOC ON THE FARMS,
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE A
BALANCE MUST BE KEPT.
...WE ARE JUST ONE
PART OF THE
WHOLE.

THE MACHINATIO VITAE
IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN
ANY ONE TRAGEDY!

*This was not what the
crowd wanted to hear.*



HE DOESN'T
KNOW HOW TERRIBLY
THE FARMS
WERE HIT...

...KEEP
TALKING,
TENREC...
YOU'RE DOIN'
FINE.



*Everyone
listened in
shocked
silence as
Tenrec
finished
his rant.*



WELL, IF WE'VE
ALL HAD OUR SAY,
SHALL WE VOTE?

DAHLGREN?



LET'S
DO IT.



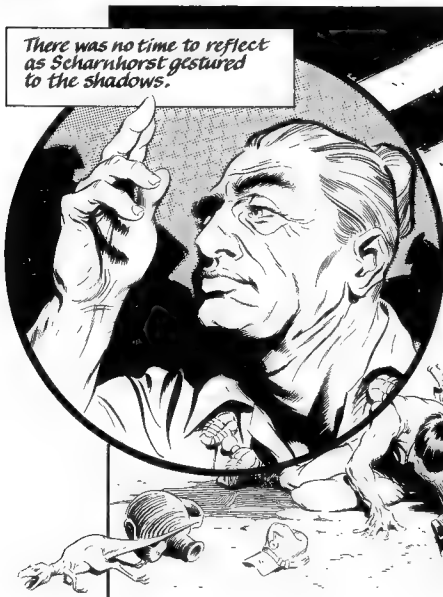
The Council
votes in
secrecy,
but we all
knew what
the outcome
would be.



They were not out long.

THE VOTE IS UNANIMOUS.
WILHELMINA SCHARNHORST
IS OUR NEW GOVERNOR.

There was little reaction from the crowd.
Did they realize what they'd done?
Did they see that they'd
ended a way of life?



There was no time to reflect
as Scharnhorst gestured
to the shadows.

And began
attending to
her agenda.





DON'T TRY TO INTERFERE, WASSOON. THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.



WELL, WELL... THE MIGHTY SHAMAN TENREC.

WHERE IS YOUR DEVOTED TRIBE NOW? MAYBE YOU OPENED THEIR EYES TO THE ABSURDITY OF YOUR DOCTRINE?



THINK WHAT YOU WILL OF MY METHODS, TENREC... MY RESULTS WILL BUILD AN EMPIRE.

I'M GOING TO START BY EXPANDING THE FARMS... NO TRIBESMAN WILL EVER GO HUNGRY AGAIN.



I'M GOING TO FORCE BACK YOUR JUNGLES AND DRAIN YOUR DAMN SWAMPS, AND THE SKY *ISN'T* GOING TO FALL!

WE'LL DO VERY WELL WITHOUT YOU, TENREC.



LOCK HIM UP...

ROUND UP ALL THE OLD BLOODS ...

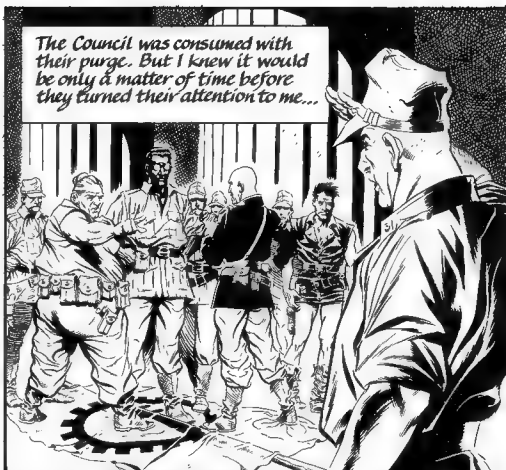


AND CAIRO... BRING ME CAIRO.

But Mustapha and the Old Bloods had melted away in the confusion, leaving me standing alone.



The Council was consumed with their purge. But I knew it would be only a matter of time before they turned their attention to me...



Only Dahlgren stood apart... ambiguous...



The vote had been unanimous. I had judged her correctly.



She returned my stare...



There was no one left for me to trust. My ally had fallen and his forces had abandoned him.

My only recourse was a speedy departure from the City. But as I watched them drag Tenrec away, a desperate plan sprang into my head.

A dangerous plan....but one that may afford us some future options.





THIS WON'T
ENDEAR YOU
TO THE
COUNCIL...



WHAT
DO YOU
PLAN TO DO
WITH
ME?

SHHHH!
SOMEONE'S
COMING!



Working
quickly, we
barely had
time to
extinguish
our torch
before...



JACK...?
GASP!
WHO..?









Dahlgren was as good as her word.



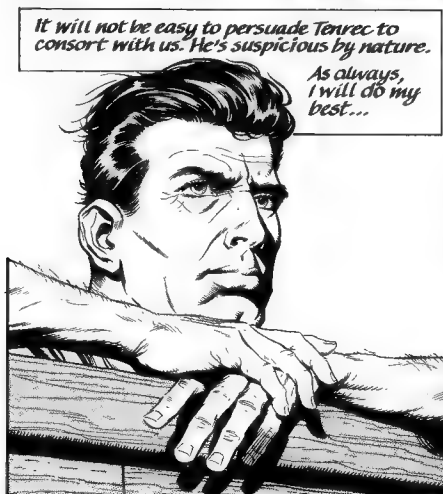
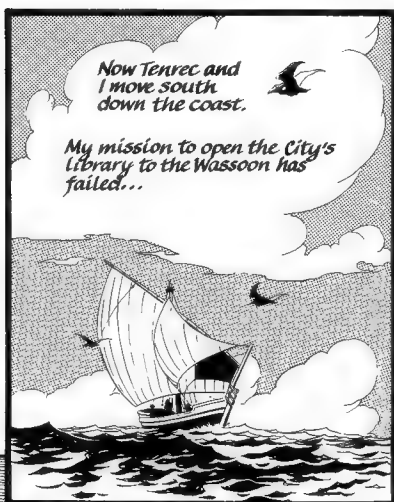
I had been wrong about her and Cairo.



Over my strenuous objections, Ténrec set a course for the mainland...

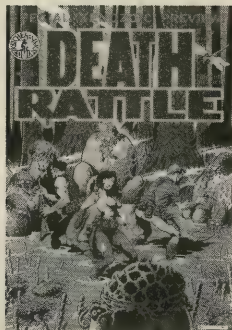


He had to see for himself that the garage was no longer his.

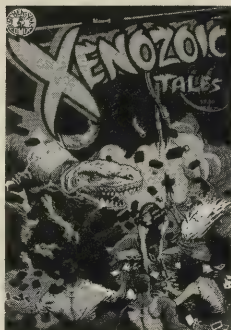


THE END

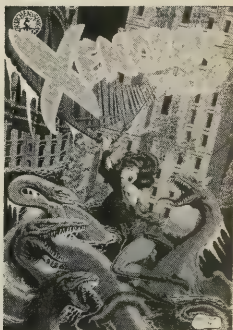
XENOZOIC TALES back issues in stock!



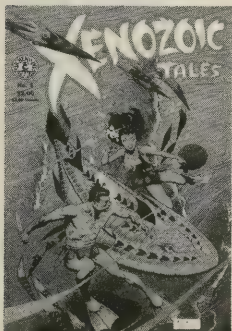
Death Rattle 8



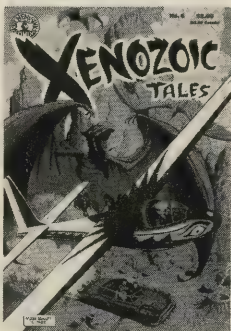
Xenozoic Tales 1



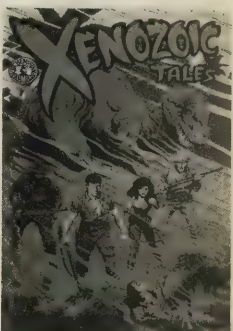
Xenozoic Tales 4



Xenozoic Tales 5



Xenozoic Tales 6



Xenozoic Tales 8



Xenozoic Tales 9

Kitchen Sink Press ★ No. 2 Swamp Rd. ★ Princeton WI 54968

All ten issues of Mark Schultz's *Xenozoic Tales* plus *Death Rattle* 8 (with the first "Xenozoic" story) are in stock at our warehouse! If you've missed any, order now! Just \$2 and 50 cents p&h each; but if you order 5 or more, we pay postage. Send check or MO; MC/Visa also accepted.

Enclosed is \$_____ for the following: ☐ Death Rattle 8
☐ Xenozoic Tales 1 ☐ XT2 ☐ XT3 ☐ XT4 ☐ XT5 ☐ XT6
☐ XT7 ☐ XT8 ☐ XT9 ☐ XT10.

MC/Visa: _____ Exp.: _____

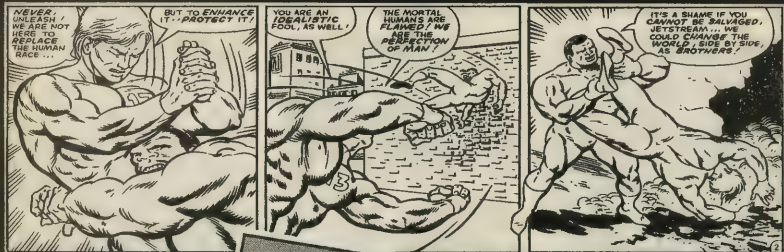
Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Wisconsin Residents add 5 per cent sales tax.


Something different...



It's Kitchen Sink Press's first semi-legitimate superhero book, and it's by Donald Simpson, creator of Megaton Man. It's *Bizarro Heroes*, and it explores the world of mad science fiction writers turned religious gurus, intrepid reporters who write sleazy columns...and super-powered clones of real people! It's **ON SALE NOW** at better comics shops everywhere!

FIELDS OF EXPERTISE


THE MACHINATIO VITAE TEACHES US THAT THE MOST HONORABLE PATH A MAN CAN FOLLOW LEADS HIM DOWN INTO THE SOIL. WE WHO HAVE CHOSEN A LIFE OF FARMING HAVE ALWAYS CAREFULLY TRIED TO FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH BY THE **DOCTRINE**, AS TAUGHT BY THE **OLD BLOOD MECHANICS**, JACK TENREC FOREMOST AMONG THEM.



THE DOCTRINE MAY SEEM CRUEL AT TIMES, BUT THE CALAMITIES VISITED UPON OUR ANCESTORS CLEARLY SHOW THE FOLLY IN ATTEMPTING TO SUBJUGATE THE LAND.

Steve Stiles

WE KNEW THE LIFE WASN'T GOING TO BE EASY. WE KNEW THAT BEFORE WE CAME, BUT SOME OF US JUST COULDN'T STAND BEING COOPED UP IN THE CITY, NOTHING BUT WATER ON ALL SIDES.

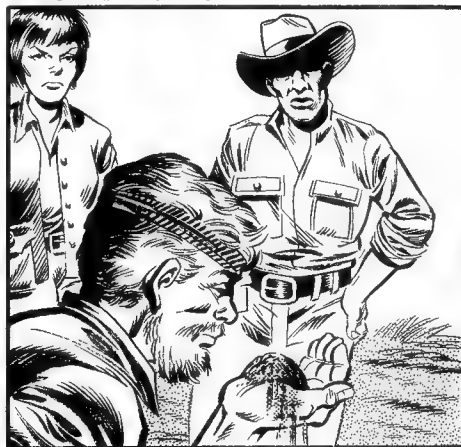


HOW MANY OF US GET THE CHANCE TO DO WHAT WE REALLY WANT? TO WORK WITH THE EARTH...

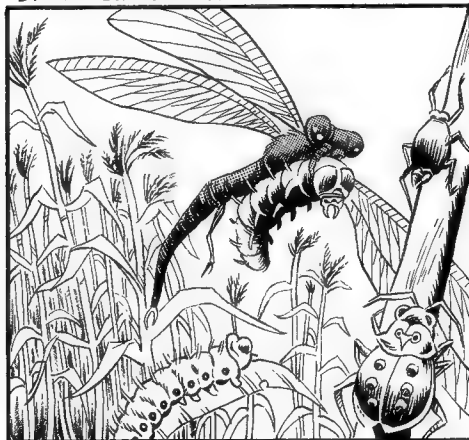
TO LEARN TO BEND AND ACCEPT ADVERSITY...
THE NEVER ENDING CRUSH OF THE
ENCROACHING JUNGLE...



THE TEMPERAMENTAL SOIL, QUICK TO
REJECT OUR CROPS...



THE HORDES OF INSECTS, ATTRACTED
BY OUR SUCCESSES...



AND THE SLITHERS, *RULERS OF THE INTERIOR*,
BOLDLY RAIDING OUR STOCK...



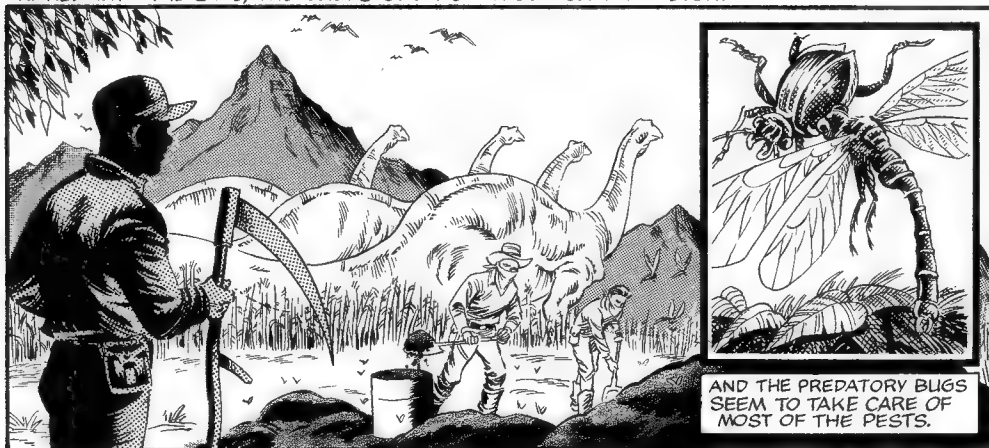
DISDAINFUL OF OUR DEFENSES...



BROWSING WHEREVER THEIR WHIMS TAKE THEM.



STILL, WHEN THE SLITHERS HAVE BEEN PERSUADED TO LEAVE, AND THEIR GUANO HAS BEEN RAKED INTO THE SOIL, THE CROPS GROW BACK BETTER THAN EVER.



EVERYTHING SEEMS TO PRETTY MUCH EVEN OUT... WHICH IS HOW THE DOCTRINE TEACHES US IT SHOULD BE...

ESPECIALLY THOSE SETBACKS THAT NEVER SEEM TO CARRY ANY ADVANTAGES...



AND THE **STORMS!** THOSE BATTERING, SHATTERING HURRICANES THAT COME IN FROM THE SEA!



BUT NEVER BEFORE LIKE THE ONE THAT LAID US LOW TWO MONTHS AGO.

THIS ONE HAD TO BE THE **GRANDDADDY** OF THEM ALL! FLATTENED OUR CROPS AT ONE BLOW...



AND KILLED OUR LIVESTOCK WITH MISSILES TORN FROM THE EARTH.



TWO DAYS THAT STORM RAGED AND WHEN IT WAS OVER THERE WASN'T MUCH WORTH SALVAGING,



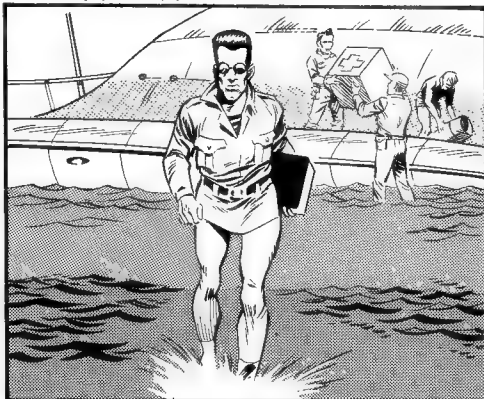
THOSE OF US WHO SURVIVED FELT WE WERE PRETTY WELL WIPED OUT.



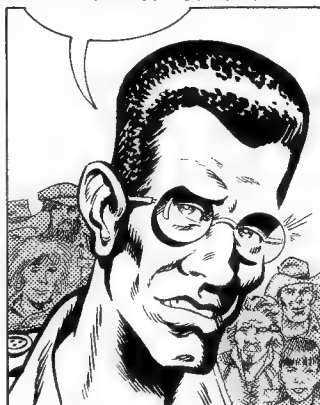
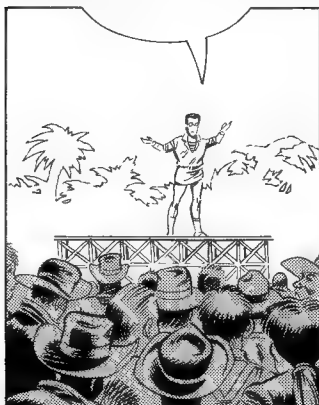
OUT TO SEA, THE CITY LOOKED LIKE IT HAD BEEN ROUNDED OFF A BIT, TOO. THREE DAYS AFTER THE STORM WE SAW A BOAT HEADED OUR WAY.



I THINK WE ALL FEARED THE COUNCIL WAS COMING TO SHUT US DOWN AND EVACUATE. BUT IT WAS GOVERNOR TOULOUSE WHO STRODE ASHORE.



TOULOUSE HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR GREATEST ADVOCATE. TOULOUSE ESTABLISHED THE FARM COLONY IN THE FIRST PLACE. WHEN HE SPEAKS YOU CAN **FEEL** HOW MUCH THE FARMS MEAN TO HIM... AFTER HE HAD SOMBERLY SURVEYED THE STORM DAMAGES, HE HELPED US **ENTHRALLED** AS HE EXPRESSED HIS ADMIRATION FOR US AND OUR **NOBLE ENTERPRISE**.



THEN HE TOLD US THINGS IN THE CITY HAD CHANGED. **NOW** WE WERE GOING TO GET THE SUPPORT WE NEEDED AND DESERVED.

AND HE SAID THAT THE TYRANNY OF THE OLD BLOOD MECHANICS WAS ENDED.



IN THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED, FLOTILLAS OF SCIENTISTS, WORKERS, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND NEW TECHNOLOGY ARRIVED AT OUR SHORES.

THERE ARE BIG PLANS AFOOT IN THE CITY AND YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PART OF 'EM. SO LET'S START DOIN' THINGS **RIGHT!**



THE DEMONSTRATIONS BEGAN IMMEDIATELY...

WE NEED TO SEE A 50% INCREASE IN CROP YIELD THIS YEAR. WE GOTTA PUSH THIS JUNGLE BACK.



WE CAN'T AFFORD TO PLAY GAMES WITH THESE PESTS ANY LONGER!



WE COULDN'T BELIEVE OUR EYES. IT WAS LIKE THEY'D NEVER HEARD OF THE DOCTRINE!



THE ADVISER ADDRESSED JUST THAT.

THIS IS A **NEW WORLD** WE'RE STARTIN' HERE! THE OLD BLOOD MECHANICS AND THE DOCTRINE HAVE HELD THE TRIBE IN SLAVERY **TOO LONG!**

SHAKE OFF YOUR CHAINS...





YES, THAT STORM CERTAINLY BLEW IN
A LOT OF CHANGES...



SOME OF US ARE GLAD FOR 'EM, SOME
ARE UNDECIDED...



MOST OF US ARE STILL IN SHOCK. SORT OF
LIKE WE'VE HAD OUR LEGS KNOCKED OUT
FROM UNDER US...



I DON'T KNOW. TOULOUSE HAS ALWAYS DONE RIGHT BY US, BUT WE'RE A SIMPLE
PEOPLE AND THEY'RE TELLING US THAT EVERYTHING WE BELIEVED IN WAS **WRONG**.

THEY'RE TELLING US WE'VE GOT
A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE TRIBE
ABOVE ALL ELSE. I WANT TO
TRUST THEM, BUT WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN THE BALANCE COMES DUE?



XENOZOIC EXPRESS



XenoZoic Tales 8: Best comic book of 1989?

Just before issue 10 of *XenoZoic Tales* went to press, we learned that Mark Schultz had been nominated as Best Artist in 1989 by the Harvey Awards, and issue 8 of *XenoZoic Tales* had been nominated as Best Single Issue of the year. *XenoZoic Tales* 8 printed the 20-page story, "In the Dreamtime," art and story by Schultz; and the 8-page "Foul Weather," story by Schultz, art by Steve Stiles. Comics professionals nominate and choose the winners in Harvey Award balloting. Congratulations to Messrs. Schultz and Stiles for the nominations, and to the voters for exhibiting such good taste!

Not vanilla...

XenoZoic Tales is a well-crafted, highly imaginative and thoroughly enjoyable fantasy treat, which is a contrast to the mostly bland, mostly mindless, cosmic crusaders that seem to overpopulate the comic book marketplace.

Although I still like Spidey, and the Dark Knight, and a few others, a steady diet of it is akin to eating a gallon of vanilla

ice cream for the rest of your life, at gunpoint! (At least it seems that way.)

In case you haven't guessed by now, what I'm really trying to say is, I like it, so stop wasting time reading this letter and make more!

Paul Solomon

Fort Lauderdale FL

Still worth the wait

Issues of *XenoZoic Tales* come along so irregularly, it's always a pleasant surprise when one arrives in the shops. And it's always so good that it's worth the waiting, worth whatever time it takes Mark Schultz to make it like this. He strives for a level of perfection rarely seen in comics—Dave Stevens is the obviously comparable artist—and the results remain delightful. Also, *XenoZoic Tales* is more than a series of pretty pictures; there's a fantastic, literally and superlatively, story in there as well. The relationship between Jack and Hannah, two people from drastically different cultures, finding a mutual attraction they keep trying to resist, has become the centrepiece of the whole story, with matters of state and the lost history of mankind taking a poor second place. Their dreams, this issue [#8], reveal something of their feelings. Hannah's thoughts of idyllic walks on the beach are explanation enough, as are the intensely maternal and sensual images of her naked joining with the earth and the waters. Jack, meanwhile, appears to fear rejection more than anything, as well as having his dreams filled by his own, less scientifically based beliefs. The images of those dream sequences were really stunning. I know I make this sort of comment everytime I write, but I'm always so impressed by the art that I have to say something about it!

I hope the wait for #9 is shorter...

Malcolm Bourne

Manchester, England

Back from the land of the lost

Kitchen Sink Press's display at last year's Chicago Comiccon grabbed my attention and introduced me to your great company. Meeting Mark Schultz was a plus! His artwork is exhilarating, his demeanor warm, open, genuine. This combination has captured another fan.

After 25 and some odd years of not reading comics, *XenoZoic Tales* and Mark Schultz have successfully helped to return this 37-year-old from the land of the lost.

The incredible *XenoZoic Tales* is to be congratulated. After nine issues, the intense quality remains constant. Kudos. Keep up the great work.

Daniel K. Twombly

Rochelle IL

Mr. Twombly refers to the famed Kitchen Sink Press gazebo, which will again be a focus of the Chicago Comiccon in 1990. This year's guests include Harvey (Jungle Book, Betsy's Buddies) Kurtzman.

A favor and a half

I'm not in any kind of "superhero" rut or Marvel and DC "burnout" like some of your other readers have admitted. I read a number of different titles, all sorts of them, both mainstream and alternative. I consider myself a great fan of good comic book fiction; there is a common thread of, what I'd deem, high quality writing and first caliber artwork in all the books I read and collect. That is why I enjoy *XenoZoic Tales*.

My gratitude also for publishing *Cadillacs & Dinosaurs* [a collection of *XenoZoic Tales* 1-4, plus the *Death Rattle* tale, "XenoZoic"], as well as making all your back issues available; you've done me a favor and a half. Keep up the great work and I shall spread the word. Thank you for your attention.

J. Torres

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

A singular blend

Special thanks for the quality and design of the *Cadillacs & Dinosaurs* hardcover book—the signature plate is a knockout. Although the original covers are oddly absent and more than just a slight example of unpublished work was expected, it is nonetheless a choice book. I surely hope it will be feasible to continue showcasing past issues of *XenoZoic Tales*.

Issue 9 of that series is delectable. Schultz's depiction of Jack's courage and ruggedness, his meticulously vivid rendering of the *XenoZoic* outback and its exotic inhabitants, along with the suspenseful action throughout and the taut climax with

its clever resolution, all combined to make "Last Link in the Chain" a winner. Moreover, Hannah was nicely woven into the story, and her timely sighting of Jack together with his priceless incredulity was a perfect finish.

My fondness for *XT* has grown to the unusual point where I'm now very eager for each new issue. Other than Daniel Clowes's *Eightball*, it's the only current non-reprint series that has such an effect. With his singular blend of an exquisite visual feast, consistently engaging stories, and two uncommon protagonists, Mark Schultz has truly fashioned a rare gem of a comic.

Rick Kupec

Scarborough, Ontario, Canada

Both signed hardcover and softcover volumes of *Cadillacs & Dinosaurs* are still available. If you cannot find them in your comics shop, either ask for them, or drop a line to us for our free retail catalog listing the book.

Unabashed fan rave

[Addressed to Denis Kitchen and Mark Schultz] After an enjoyable day of re-reading all the *Xenozoic Tales*, I feel compelled to write and tell you how much I love the work that you are doing. In an industry that reeks of planned mediocrity and uninspired hack work, you both stand out as shining beacons of quality.

Denis, I've noticed my collection retaining more and more of your Kitchen Sink titles. Kitchen Sink comics are always well and clearly printed on high quality paper, with no printing flaws ever appearing in any of the fifty-some issues that I've now accumulated. This can't be mere chance, but rather it shows devotion to quality and attention to detail that the "big" publishing houses should emulate. Your choice of artists and stories is unexcelled by anyone in the industry. From the Eisner reprints to the new work by Schultz and the others, it's always thrilling to crack the covers of a new K.S. issue and see what you're offering for me to read. Had I the money, I'd greedily grab up back issues of everything you have published, first for the delight of reading them, and second because as a collector I believe that your publications will become very valuable with time.

The next comments are for Mark Schultz. In *Xenozoic Tales* you have established yourself in my mind as one of the all time greats to have ever worked in the comic art field...rarefied company indeed. I'm 42-years-old and have spent a lifetime reading and collecting comics, sifting through mountains of dross to find and keep a relative handful of what I consider to be gem-quality examples of the comic art form. Your work has rapidly become some of my most valued. From strong com-

positions reminiscent of Burne Hogarth or Hal Foster at their finest, to the incredible richness of detail and anatomically correct renderings of all the life forms in your stories...I am constantly overwhelmed by your work. You seem able to draw more emotional impact from a few lines than many of our so-called "greats" can from an entire story. In fact your work has made such an impression on me that recently I modified a list that my local comics retailer has held for some time. It's a list of artists that she can feel safe in ordering any new work for me and know that I'll take it. Yours became the fifth name on that list. I wish you a long and productive life, and you can know that I'll be out here to buy anything you produce.

Stephen R. Matthews

Grand Junction CO

That nostalgic appeal...

[Addressed to Mark Schultz] ...I feel it's your characterization skills that give *Xenozoic Tales* the charm that exceeds EC nostalgia.

The first appeal of your work, though, is, of course, that nostalgia. There's something wistful in *Xenozoic Tales* beyond the storyline. It allows one to indulge in the fantasy that Wood, Williamson, and Frazetta have circumnavigated time and death for a reunion *tout de force*. No one really wants the Beatles to reunite because they know the band would fall short of its legend; nothing could surpass their past glories. Time moves on. Endless summers end. In *Xenozoic Tales*, though, fans of classic, legendary comics are privileged to enjoy the illusion that the old masters have not only returned at the peak of their creative powers, but somehow conjured the lost ambience of the past.

But your work is also very modern. It is way beyond a mere fanish indulgence that mimics form and not essence. The spirit of excellence, in its original sense of "excelling," is in your work. The old EC science-fiction books were plot and twist-ending oriented, to their detriment. (I think of Williamson's vast, prehistoric vistas dwindling under Feldstein's captions in "A Sound of Thunder"—what a waste of Williamson's talent.) This "story orientation" made the comic's art accompanying it become regulated to mere illustration (although often lovely illustration) than actually serving as "storytelling."

Your work, on the other hand, is more character-oriented than plot-oriented. The EC characters were mere ciphers, plot conveniences, interchangeable. Not so with Hannah and Jack. They're both appealing (especially Hannah). Miss Dundee is sexy in a way Wood's women (whom she obviously resembles physically) never

were. Hannah has personality! She's tough, brave, sneaky, emotional, (can act) irrational, caring, loyal. She's a truly "strong" woman character without being an obnoxious Ramboette. Hannah's always feminine in her appearance, personality, and bearing. Your understanding of her character as a writer and body language as an artist combine fabulously in your depiction of her. She's someone I'd like to face a brave (everything is old is) new (again) world with!...

Michah Harris

No address given

Good comics vs. pretty pictures

After several months of reading a friend's comics, I have finally begun to set up my own purchase list at a local store. *Xenozoic Tales* I rated a "must have." As so many others on this page have done, let me praise Mark Schultz for generating an intriguing premise, a fascinating world, and an appropriately colorful set of characters. His storylines are exciting and involving. And of course, the artwork is outstanding. It is lush, detailed, and cinematic to an amazing degree for a black and white comic.

That said, I wish to take exception to Ken Feduniewicz's comments in *XT* #9 regarding the "plague of the '80s." Mr. Feduniewicz's focus on art as the signal ingredient of good comics is valid, but he goes too far in divorcing it from the design, the script, or the storytelling. If all these elements are so secondary, why not skip comics altogether and just buy portfolios? To say that the art is "the only ingredient which...really counts" does a great disservice not only to the full-time writers and letterers in comicdom, but denigrates artists like Mark Schultz for the time spent formulating the stories that are the genesis of the art. What separates the best comics (and movies, and TV shows) from the run-of-the-mill is the integration of elements—making them fit into something better than the sum of its parts. I have seen perfectly gorgeous art in trivial, lame, essentially useless comics. Conversely, some powerful and memorable work has included art that appears crude or childish.

My version of the final analysis: While artwork is what makes comics what they are, storytelling is what sets good comics apart from collections of pretty pictures.

Jack Dominey

Lilburn GA

Any comments on *Xenozoic Tales* or about the letters printed above? Send 'em to:

Xenozoic Express
c/o Kitchen Sink Press
2 Swamp Rd.
Princeton WI 54968

Next Issue:

In the next issue—No. 11—of Mark Schultz's *Xenozoic Tales*, Jack and Hannah escape from the City in the Sea, political refugees from a dictatorial reign of terror. They begin the journey to the Land of the Wassoon...

On the run!

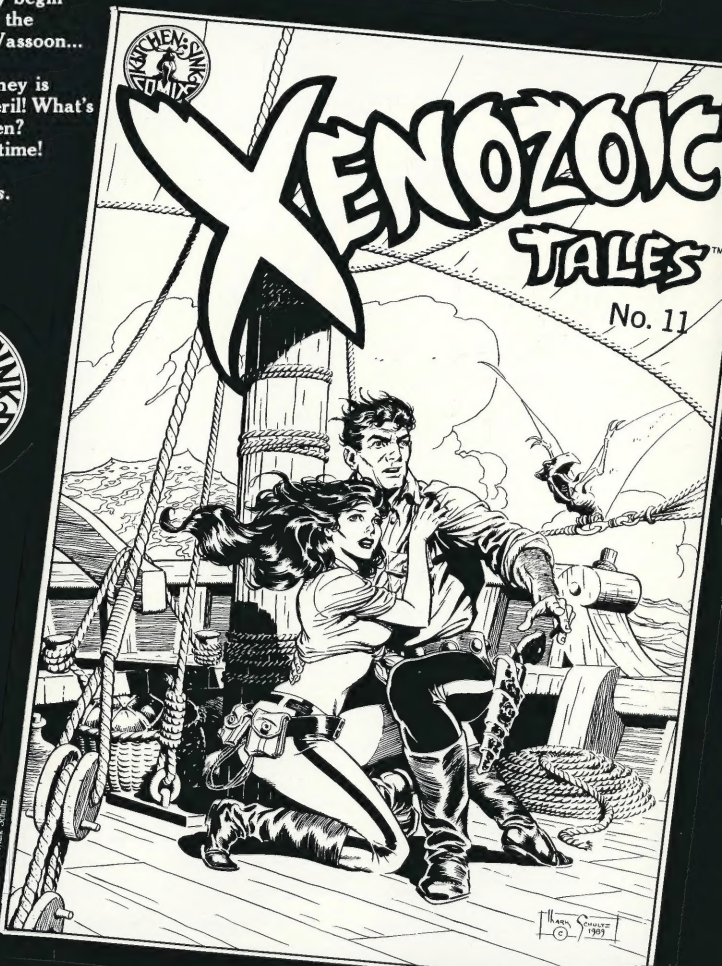
...But the journey is fraught with peril! What's going to happen? Find out next time!

Xenozoic Tales.
Don't miss it!



XENOZOIC TALES™

No. 11



Betty

by
Dave
Stevens

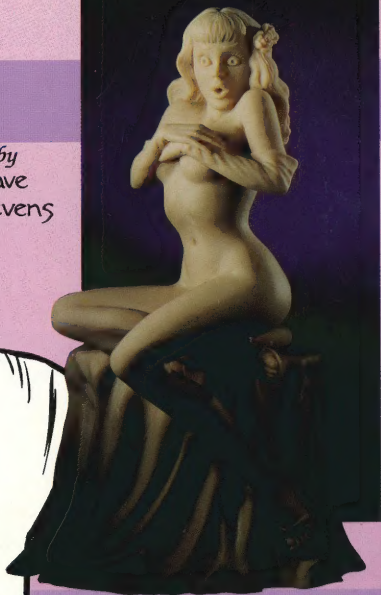
From the pages of *The Rocketeer Adventure Magazine* (and the dreams of decades of fans), comes two new items featuring everyone's favorite Betty.



T-Shirt

Scanned color design on a heavyweight 100% cotton shirt.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM COMIC RETAILERS AND DISTRIBUTORS EVERYWHERE.



Figurine

Cold cast natural-tone porcelain figurine measuring 8 inches in height.

make check or money order payable and mail to:

KITCHEN SINK PRESS
No. 2 Swamp Road • Princeton, WI 54968

Visa and Mastercard accepted on orders over \$25.00

Call (414) 295-6922 between 9 & 5 CST
for phone charge card order



Quantity	Description / Price	Total
	BETTY FIGURINE	\$39.95
	BETTY T-SHIRT S - M - L - XL	\$12.95
	WI Residents add 5% Sales Tax	
	Shipping & Handling	
	Total	

SHIPPING & HANDLING

UP TO \$17.99 ADD.....	\$1.50
\$18.00 TO \$23.99 ADD.....	\$2.00
\$24.00 TO \$29.99 ADD.....	\$2.50
\$30.00 TO \$99.99 ADD.....	\$3.00
\$100.00 AND UP ADD.....	\$100.00

FOREIGN SHIPPING (please add to the shipping rates to the left.)

CANADA ADD.....	\$1.00
OTHERS ADD.....	\$3.00
U.S. CURRENCY ONLY	